



LREC 2022 Workshop
Language Resources and Evaluation Conference
20-25 June 2022

2nd Workshop on Tools and Resources for REAding Difficulties (READI)

Editors:

Rodrigo Wilkens, David Alfter, Rémi Cardon and Núria Gala

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Message from the General Chair

Recent studies show that the number of children and adults facing difficulties in reading and understanding written texts is steadily growing. Reading challenges can show up early on and may include reading accuracy, speed, or comprehension to the extent that the impairment interferes with academic achievement or activities of daily life. Various technologies (text customization, text simplification, text to speech devices, screening for readers through games and web applications, to name a few) have been developed to help poor readers to get better access to information as well as to support reading development. Among those technologies, text adaptations are a powerful way to leverage document accessibility by using NLP techniques.

The "Second Workshop on Tools and Resources for READING Difficulties" (READI), collocated with the "International Conference on Language Resources and Evaluation" (LREC 2022), aims at presenting current state-of-the-art techniques and achievements for text adaptations together with existing reading aids and resources for lifelong learning. The materials can be addressed to children struggling with difficulties in learning to read, to the community of teachers, speech-language pathologists and parents seeking solutions, but also to adults and professionals involved with adults struggling with reading (illiterates, aphasic readers, low vision readers, etc.).

In the second edition of READI, 14 propositions have been submitted from which 10 were accepted. Thus, the total rate of accepted papers is 71rate of 669, France 9, Switzerland 6, Iceland 5, Poland 4, Australia 3, Ireland 3, Spain 3, Sweden 3, Germany 2, Iran 1, Netherlands 1, United Kingdom 1, and Independent scholar 1). READI also features two invited speakers, Carolina Scarton (University of Sheffield, UK) and Arne Jönsson (Linköping University, Sweden). Moreover, we have decided to include in the program a one-hour slot for three papers from the 1st READI Workshop in 2020 (as the workshop could not take place due to the covid crisis).

We are thankful to the authors who submitted their work to this workshop, to our Program Committee members for their contributions, to the reviewers and the additional reviewers who did a thorough job evaluating submissions, to Carolina Scarton and Arne Jönsson who kindly accepted to be our invited speakers, and to LREC committee for including this workshop in their program. The workshop has been supported by Aix Marseille University, Laboratoire Parole et Langage (CNRS UMR 7309) and the Institute Language, Communication and the Brain (ILCB), funded by the French National Agency for Research (ANR, ANR-16-CONV-0002) and the Excellence Initiative of Aix- Marseille University A*MIDEX (ANR-11-IDEX-0001-02).

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Leonardo Zilio, University of Surrey, United Kingdom
Michael Zock, Aix Marseille Université, France

Invited Speakers:

Carolina Scarton, University of Sheffield, UK
Arne Jönsson, Linköping University, Sweden

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Conference Program

Friday, June 24, 2022

9:00–9:10 **Welcome**

9:10–10:00 **Invited speaker**

9:10–10:00 *Personalised Text Simplification*
Caroline Scarton

10:00–10:30 **Oral presentation**

10:00–10:30 *Reading Assistance through LARA, the Learning And Reading Assistant*
Elham Akhlaghi, Ingibjörg Iða Auðunardóttir, Branislav Bédi, Hakeem Beedar,
Harald Berthelsen, Cathy Chua, Catia Cucchiarini, Brynjarr Eyjólfsson, Nedelina
Ivanova, Christèle Maizonniaux, Neasa Ní Chiaráin, Manny Rayner, John Sloan,
Sigurður Vigfússon and Ghil’ad Zuckermann

10:30–11:00 **coffee break**

11:00–12:00 **Oral presentation**

11:00–11:30 *Agree to Disagree: Exploring Subjectivity in Lexical Complexity*
Matthew Shardlow

11:30–12:00 *A Dictionary-Based Study of Word Sense Difficulty*
David Alfter, Rémi Cardon and Thomas François

Friday, June 24, 2022 (continued)

12:00–13:00 Poster session

- 12:00–13:00 *A Multilingual Simplified Language News Corpus*
Renate Hauser, Jannis Vamvas, Sarah Ebling and Martin Volk
- 12:00–13:00 *The Swedish Simplification Toolkit: – Designed with Target Audiences in Mind*
Evelina Rennes, Marina Santini and Arne Jonsson
- 12:00–13:00 *HIBOU: an eBook to improve Text Comprehension and Reading Fluency for Beginning Readers of French*
Ludivine Javourey Drevet, Stéphane Dufau, Johannes Christoph Ziegler and Núria Gala
- 12:00–13:00 *PADDLe: a Platform to Identify Complex Words for Learners of French as a Foreign Language (FFL)*
Camille Pirali, Thomas François and Núria Gala
- 12:00–13:00 *Open corpora and toolkit for assessing text readability in French*
Nicolas Hernandez, Nabil Oulbaz and Tristan Faine
- 12:00–13:00 *MWE for Essay Scoring English as a Foreign Language*
Rodrigo Wilkens, Daiane Seibert, Xiaou Wang and Thomas François

13:00–14:00 Lunch break

Friday, June 24, 2022 (continued)

14:10–15:00 Invited speaker

14:10–15:00 *Tools & services for text adaptation*

Arne Jonson

15:00–16:00 READI 2020 presentations

15:00–15:20 *Text Simplification to Help Individuals with Low Vision Read More Fluently*

Lauren Sauvan, Natacha Stolowy, Carlos Aguilar, Thomas François, Núria Gala, Frédéric Matonti, Eric Castet and Aurélie Calabrèse

15:20–15:40 *Disambiguating Confusion Sets as an Aid for Dyslexic Spelling*

Steinunn Rut riðriksdóttir a and Anton Karl Ingason

15:40–16:00 *Incorporating Multiword Expressions in Phrase Complexity Estimation*

Sian Gooding, Shiva Taslimipoor and Ekaterina Kochmar

16:00–16:30 Coffee break

16:30–17:00 Round table: future directions & projects

17:00–17:15 End session